



August 25, 2009

Kuipers Requests Federal Intelligence Report on Gitmo Detainees

In light of Governor Granholm's willingness to accept detainees from Guantanamo Bay, I believe that Michigan should, at the very least, be given access to the complete federal intelligence report on the 229 detainees currently at Guantanamo Bay in order to be able to take the appropriate steps to ensure public safety.

Recently adopted by the Senate, Senate Resolution 73 urges President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress to give Michigan lawmakers vital intelligence information on Guantanamo Bay detainees.

The Senate acted one day after U.S. Rep. Peter Hoekstra, R-Holland, told the Michigan Senate Committee on Judiciary that the panel should not consider a plan to bring terrorist detainees to a state prison in Standish without the information requested in the resolution.

Kuipers' Bill Clarifies Algebra II Requirement

Senate Bill 698 would allow the Algebra II math credit required to graduate from high school to be earned through completing a department-approved Career & Technical Education (CTE) course that includes embedded math content.

When developing the state's high school graduation requirements in 2006, lawmakers recognized that students learn in different ways. While it was always the Legislature's intent that students could fulfill the requirements in a variety of ways, including math-related career and technical courses, education officials' interpretations of the law have conflicted.

SB 698 makes it clear that CTE courses can fulfill the requirements, as long as the courses hit certain benchmarks. Many CTE courses include math, such as electronics, engineering, and machining.

I believe that clarifying that vocational courses do count toward fulfilling Algebra II credit is the right thing to do. The bill now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration.